

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF GEORGIA,

IN OPPOSITION TO

The principles of certain resolves of the legislature of Massachusetts in relation to an amendment of the constitution on the subject of federal representation.

FEBRUARY 2, 1846.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

IN SENATE.

The Committee on the state of the Republic, to whom were referred certain legislative resolves of the State of Massachusetts, proposing an alteration in the constitution of the United States, so as to apportion Representatives in Congress and direct taxes among the several States, in proportion to their respective numbers of free persons, exclusive of Indians not taxed, beg leave to offer the following report :

Whilst your committee dissent from the proposition to alter the federal constitution, as proposed by the legislature of Massachusetts, they would express their regret that the citizens of that State have ventured, by legislative action, to adopt a series of resolutions so much at variance with the compromises of the constitution of the United States, and so materially destructive of the interests and happiness of the southern portion of our confederacy ; and such resolves are, in the opinion of this legislature, but the sickly effusions of a blind fanaticism, founded in an ignorance of the character of southern institutions, and a total disregard for the integrity of the Union.

1st. *Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia,* That the constitution of the United States is the foundation upon which rests the union of these States, and the federal basis of representation secured in that instrument was the result of concessions and compromises among the members of the convention that framed it ; and any attempt to alter the basis of representation, as proposed in the constitution, would be a gross violation of the faith which was pledged upon its adoption.

2d. *And be it further resolved,* That the legislature of Massachusetts, by the recent action had upon this subject, has, in an organized form, placed herself, in the opinion of this legislature, in an attitude well calculated to disturb the compromises of the constitution, and to encourage

the fanatical crusade against the rights of their southern brethren, and well adapted to create serious apprehensions as to the perpetuity of the Union.

3d. *And be it further resolved*, That his excellency the governor be requested to transmit a copy of the above preamble and resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Executive of the United States, and to each of the governors of the several States.

Agreed to, December 4th, 1845.

ABSALOM H. CHAPPELL,
President of the Senate.

Test :

THOS. R. R. COBB,
Secretary of the Senate.

In House of Representatives, concurred in, December 23d, 1845.

CHARLES J. JENKINS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Test :

JOHN J. WORD,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Assented to, December 29th, 1845.

GEO. W. CRAWFORD, *Governor.*